

REMARKS

Claims 1-76 are pending in the application and are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. The claims have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

I.Claims 1-18 are drawn to a method for data lookup for firewalls and NAT and a method for creating data structures, classified in class 709, subclass 238.

II.Claims 19-24 are drawn to a method for security protocol support, classified in class 709, subclass 225.

III.Claims 25-27 are drawn to a method for creating at least one data structure with active and inactive firewall and NAT, classified in class 709, subclass 225.

IV.Claims 28-30 are drawn to a data structure for routing packets with IP destination and resolution tables, classified in class 709, subclass 230.

V.Claims 31-33 are drawn to a method of forming hashing table chains, classified in class 709, subclass 238.

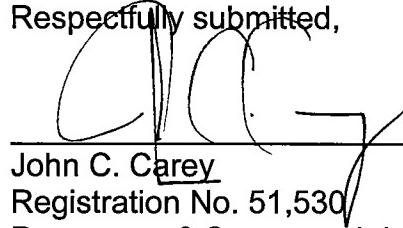
VI.Claims 34-65 are drawn to a method for tracking packet states, classified in class 709, subclass 224.

VII.Claims 66-76 are drawn to a method for network protocol processing with control headers and parsing out information into data structures, classified in class 709, subclass 238.

Applicants provisionally elect Group VI, without traverse. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of claims 1-33 and 66-76, without prejudice, and prosecution of claims 34-65.

If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


John C. Carey
Registration No. 51,530
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77056-6582
Telephone: (650) 330-2310
Facsimile: (650) 330-2314
Attorney for Applicant